



REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-8 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 8 is currently withdrawn at this time.

Basis for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

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REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Schuttler** (U.S. Patent No. 5,620,066). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the second flow path as being a continuously open flow path. As disclosed in **Schuttler**, the second flow path 161 is closed by valve spring 162 and the other flow path 163 is closed by valve spring 164.

Regarding the concept of combining **Schuttler** with another reference to provide continuously open flow paths, this combination would not be permissible under 35 U.S.C. § 103 because it would render the **Schuttler** device inoperable. See column 19, line 44 to column 20, line 36.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 6 and 7, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejoinder


Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of withdrawn Claim 8.



It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 27, 2003

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